

# Nicholses charged with conspiracy

## Kansas motel manager recognizes 'John Doe 2'

By SHARON COHEN  
The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Two brothers were linked in conspiracy charges Tuesday with Oklahoma bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh.

Also Tuesday, the manager of a Junction City, Kan., motel said he recognized the man in a new FBI sketch of "John Doe 2" as a nervous guest with a foreign accent.

The fast-breaking developments in two states came as rescuers raked through the rubble for bodies and this grieving city continued to bury its dead. The pace of recovering bodies quickened, and the death toll rose to 96.

In Michigan, federal prosecutors charged James Nichols, a 41-year-old farmer, and his brother, Terry, 40, Herington, Kan., with conspiring to make explosive devices. They were accused of conspiring with McVeigh, the 27-year-old Army veteran

charged in the explosion that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah federal building.

A court affidavit said James Nichols told FBI agents Friday that McVeigh "had the knowledge to manufacture a bomb" and that the three men made "bottle bombs" in 1992. Last year, the Nichols brothers made small explosive devices, the court document said.

McVeigh was not accused in the Michigan case, and the charges against the Nichols brothers are not related to the Oklahoma bombing, authorities said.

The charges allow the government to continue holding the men, who previously were in custody as material witnesses.

In Washington, a federal law enforcement official said the vehicle McVeigh was driving when he was stopped for traffic violations shortly after the bombing showed traces of nitrates and high explosive, but it was not yet possible to conclusively link them to the bombing.

The FBI released an enhanced sketch of the most-wanted man in America, a square-jawed individual linked to the nation's deadliest domestic terrorist attack here April 19.

It shows a man wearing a baseball cap

and is otherwise very similar to the original picture of "John Doe 2."

In Junction City, the manager of the Great Western Inn was watching television with two reporters when the new sketch flashed on the screen. He said he recognized it as the man who stayed in Room 107 on April 17 — two days before the bombing.

"He spoke broken English. He was not 100 percent American," said the manager, who is East Indian and speaks with an accent. The manager, who requested anonymity for fear of retaliation, said the man gave a foreign name and was driving a Ryder truck.

He couldn't give the name the man registered under because FBI agents took away his log book.

Broadcast reports quoted unidentified sources Tuesday as saying eyewitnesses saw McVeigh driving the Ryder van in Oklahoma City, with a passenger, shortly before the bombing. NBC News said McVeigh was eight blocks from the federal building and asking directions.

Broadcasters also reported that McVeigh had chemical traces on his clothing linking him to the bombing.